

REMARKS

The current patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated January 5, 2005, in which: Claims 88-98, 101-107, 110 and 116-121 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), claims 88-96, 98 and 106-107, 110, 116-121 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, claims 99-100 and 111-113 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, claims 92-96 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record, however, a terminal disclaimer was required based upon the double patenting rejections, and claims 108-109 and 114-115 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the current application in light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 93-96, 99-100, 108-109, 111-115 are currently pending. Claims 88-92, 97-98, 101-107, 110 and 116-121 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 94, 96, 99, 100 and 111 are amended. No new claims are added.

Applicant respectfully assumes Examiner did not intend to include claim 92 in the allowable subject matter, although claim 92 is indicated as allowable in paragraph 10 of the Office Action mentioned above. Please inform Applicant if this is an erroneous assumption.

It is noted that the aforementioned 103(a) rejections are believed to be moot in light of the cancellation of claims. Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim cancellation, however, does not result in surrender of literal scope of the claims or prosecution history estoppel because Applicant intends to file a Request for Continuing Examination with respect to those cancelled claims.

It is noted that the Examiner objected to claims 99-100 and 111-113 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner also noted that the claims would be allowable if the

limitations of the rejected base claim and all intervening claims were re-written in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended address the Examiner's concerns. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his objection with respect to these claims.

It is noted that the Examiner rejected claims 92-96 based on obviousness-type double patenting. However, the Examiner also indicated claims 92-96 would be allowable over the prior art of record if a terminal disclaimer were filed. Without conceding that the Examiner is correct regarding the presence of obviousness-type double patenting, Applicant respectfully submits that the enclosed terminal disclaimer addresses the Examiner's concerns. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his reject with respect to these claims.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges in paragraph 11 of the aforementioned office action that the Examiner determined claims 108-109 and 114-115 to be allowable over the prior art of record.

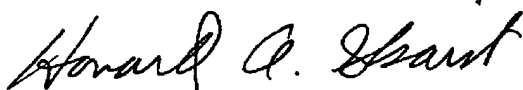
Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and enclosed terminal disclaimer address all of the Examiner's concerns and put the current patent application in condition for allowance.

Any amounts due may be charged to deposit account number 07-0868.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in the current patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 640-6475. Reconsideration of the current patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated:

5/5/05

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